

**Objective:** Students will learn how social media tools can be used both positively and negatively.

**Resources Needed for this Activity:**

- PowerPoint [8\_U5\_A2\_PP\_Social Media and Peers]
- YouTube Video, “Teen Talk: Social Media Issues,” 4 minutes 12 seconds. Available at: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=rhFSpTce40s](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rhFSpTce40s)

**Opening: 3 minutes** – The advisor begins by asking students what social media they use. Likely responses include Facebook, MySpace, Instagram, Pinterest, Twitter, Tumblr and others. Ask the students if it is positive or negative that these media tools exist, and the students are likely to say it is positive. Note that last week they discussed the positive and negative sides of peer relationships, and this week, they’ll talk about positive and negative ways to use social media.

**Activity: 25 minutes** – Slide 2: The advisor says they will begin with a video, and asks students to listen for some positive and negative ways teenagers use social media tools. After the video facilitate a discussion on these two questions.

Slide 3: The advisor summarizes the positive and negative ways to use social media tools mentioned in the video. Positive aspects of social media include: 1) Can organize events, 2) Connect with people, especially if they are far away, 3) Increases awareness of how to use social media positively, 4) Learn more about emerging technologies. Negative aspects of social media include: 1) Less privacy, 2) Students have fewer conversations, which can lead to inferior verbal skills, 3) Tools can be addictive, waste of time, and reduce productivity, 4) Cyberbullying.

Slide 4: The advisor divides the students into groups of four and says they have five minutes to create a one minute public service announcement about the positive or negative effects of the social media for teenagers. They can address one or a combination of social media tools during the public service announcement. The announcement should provide strategies for teenagers to use social media tools well or how teenagers can reduce the negative effects of social media.

Slide 5: The advisor asks group members to present their one minute public service announcements.

**Closure: 2 minutes** – The advisor emphasizes that social media can be positive or negative. Students should identify strategies to reduce negative use of social media tools and continue using these tools in positive ways.